

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Application of:  
 John I. Shipp et al.  
 Serial No.: 10/047,122  
 Filed: January 15, 2002  
 For: INSTRUMENTS AND METHODS  
 FOR USE IN LAPAROSCOPIC  
 SURGERY

Confirmation No.: 9694

Group Art Unit: 3732

Examiner: C. O'Connor

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Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Transmitted herewith is a reply to the Office Action dated April 16, 2003 in the above-identified application.

- ☐ No additional fee is required.  
☒ Applicant hereby requests a three-month extension of time to respond to the above office action.

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

The fee has been calculated as shown below:

	(Col. 1) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		(Col. 2) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR		(Col. 3) PRESENT EXTRA*	LG/SM \$ ENTITY FEE		ADD'L FEE DUE
TOTAL CLAIMS FEE	110	-	94	**	16	LG=\$18 SM=\$9	\$9	\$ 144.00
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS FEE	15	-	12	***	3	LG=\$86 SM=\$43	\$43	\$ 129.00
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS						LARGE ENTITY FEE = \$290 SMALL ENTITY FEE = \$145		\$ 0
TOTAL								\$ 273.00

\* If the entry in Col. 1 is less than the entry in Col. 2, write "0" in Col. 3.

\*\* If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, write "20" in this space.

\*\*\* If the "Highest Number Previously Paid For" IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, write "3" in this space. The "Highest Number Previously Paid For" (Total or Independent) is the highest number found from the equivalent box on Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

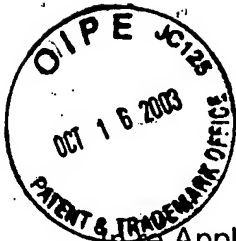
- ☒ A check in the total amount of \$748.00 (to cover the \$475.00 three-month extension of time fee and \$273 additional claims fee) is enclosed.  
☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies of fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1068. **A copy of this sheet is enclosed.**  
☒ Any filing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 for the presentation of extra claims  
☒ Any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17

Respectfully submitted,  
 MARTIN & FERRARO, LLP

Date: October 16, 2003

By: Thomas H. Martin  
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PATENT  
Attorney Docket No. 115.0001-00000  
Customer No. 22882

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Sir:

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING VIA U.S. EXPRESS MAIL**

Express Mail Mailing Label No. ET692326254US

Date of Deposit: October 16, 2003

I hereby certify that:

1. Transmittal Form (in duplicate)
2. Amendment with 1 replacement sheet and 1 annotated sheet of drawings (Fig. 8)
3. Check in the total amount of \$748.00 (representing \$475 three-month extension fee and \$273 additional claims fee)
4. Self-addressed return postcard receipt

are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service with sufficient postage under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and are addressed to:

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
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Date: October 16, 2003

  
Sandra L. Blackmon

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PATENT  
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Sir:

**AMENDMENT**

In reply to the Office Action dated April 16, 2003, the period for reply having been extended for three months by a request for extension and fee payment filed concurrently herewith, please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 17 of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes.

**Remarks** begin on page 18 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 23 of this paper.

10/23/2003 CNGUYEN 00000103 10047122

01 FC:2202	144.00 OP
02 FC:2201	129.00 OP
03 FC:2253	475.00 OP

10-28-03  
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